

## House Republican Press Release

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### Heagney Votes for Textbook Affordability Bill



*Measure Allows Students to Purchase School Materials with Financial Aid Not Yet Received*

HARTFORD – Representative Rob Heagney (R-Simsbury) today voted in favor of a bill before the House of Representatives that requires a textbook publisher to provide college faculty who inquire about purchasing its products with critical information which could impact the selection of the publications, and the price paid for the material.

Provisions of the bill, *HB 5527, An Act Concerning Textbook Affordability*, require that prior to any sale of textbooks to a college or university that a complete list of the publisher's products related to the subject the faculty member inquires about be made available. It also requires that the products' wholesale price be revealed, and information on how much longer the publisher intends to keep the products on the market. The bill addresses supplemental items (such as compact discs and workbooks) that are often packaged with a textbook but should be sold separately.

"The cost of college textbooks can often be astronomical," said Representative Heagney. "Many times a faculty member who selects a text has no idea how much the text will cost the students that are required to purchase it for the course. This measure allows the faculty member to see important information that could impact his decision on making a selection for his or her courses."

Representative Heagney serves on the legislature's Higher Education Committee, and voted in favor of the bill when it appeared there as well.

The bill requires the UConn, Connecticut State University, and Community-Technical College boards of trustees to adopt policies governing the use of financial aid at bookstores under their jurisdiction. The policies must allow students to purchase textbooks at these bookstores during the first week of an academic term using financial aid that the students may have not yet received.

The bill now heads to the state Senate for action there.